

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 0602

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 04462

DEPT PASS USTS FOR MS. SHIPKA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING, FEB 3-4, 1976

REF: STATE 25118

1. SUMMARY -

INCUMBENT BUREAU WAS REELECTED FOR 1976. THE COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED DE-RESTRICTION OF INTERIM REPORT "TRENDS OF TOURISM IN 1975 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1976" AS AMENDED DURING MEETING. IN VIEW OF SCARCE RESOURCES, NO NEW STUDIES WERE APPROVED FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAM OF WORK; DELEGATES RECOMMENDED THAT SECRETARIAT FIRST COMPLETE CURRENT ACTIVITIES. NEXT PLENARY SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 6-7. END SUMMARY.

2. ELECTION OF THE TOURISM COMMITTEE OFFICERS FOR 1976 -

THE INCUMBENT BUREAU WAS REELECTED FOR 1976: CHAIRMAN MR. WURZL (AUSTRIA), VICE-CHAIRMEN MR. BYTHELL (CANADA), AND MR. GIOURGAS (GREECE).

3. STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT -

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GILMER (HEAD, TOURISM SECTION) INFORMED THE COMMITTEE

THAT SEVERAL FACTORS IMPAIRED FUTURE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT. FIRST, WHILE COUNCIL MAINTAINED TOURISM UNDER PART I OF THE BUDGET, RESOURCES ALLOCATED (AS FOR THE REST OF THE OECD) WERE LIMITED TO A MINIMUM INCREASE IN REAL TERMS. SECONDLY, THE COMMITTEE'S STATUS MIGHT BE REVIEWED WHEN THE CY 1977 OECD BUDGET IS CONSIDERED. GILMER HOPED DELEGATES WOULD BRIEF THEIR HEAD OF DELEGATION ON THEIR COUNTRIES' INTEREST IN THE OECD'S WORK ON TOURISM. FINALLY, GILMER ANNOUNCED THAT SINCE THE PRINCIPAL STAFF MEMBER MR. AKOGLU (TURKEY) WILL LEAVE THE OECD IN APRIL, WORK WILL SUFFER UNTIL HE CAN BE REPLACED.

4. ANNUAL REPORT ON TOURISM POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL TOURISM IN OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES -

THE QUESTIONNAIRES WERE ADOPTED. DEADLINE FOR REPLIES IS MARCH 1 FOR QUESTIONNAIRE NO. 1 (TOU(76)1), AND MAY 1 FOR THE SECOND QUESTIONNAIRE (TOU(76)2).

5. TRENDS OF TOURISM IN 1975 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1976 -

AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (REFTEL) WERE PROVIDED AT THE MEETING BY US DELEGATE. AFTER A LIVELY DISCUSSION THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE SECRETARIAT PREPARE A REVISED DOCUMENT FOR EARLY PUBLICATION. A PRESS COMMUNIQUE WILL ALSO BE ISSUED REPRODUCING REVISED PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 8 EXCEPT PARA 3 WHICH WILL BE DELETED FROM BOTH DOCUMENTS.

6. DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS FOR TOURISM -

WP CHAIRMAN EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN MEMBER COUNTRY SUBMISSIONS, DECEMBER 1975 MEETING WAS POSTPONED TO MARCH 30-31, 1976. AGENDA WILL ENCOMPASS DISCUSSION OF REPORTS PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT, TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE (MEDITERRANEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES), AUSTRIA, GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS. COMMITTEE DECIDED NOT TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER WORK UNTIL PRESENT WORKLOAD IS COMPLETED, AND TC REVIEWS WP REPORT AT JULY COMMITTEE MEETING. DURING DISCUSSION WP CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED A

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SMALL EXPERTS GROUP BE FORMED TO CONSIDER EXPANDING SCOPE OF ORIGINAL MANDATE. SWISS DELEGATION THOUGHT MOST WORK WAS TOO TECHNICAL AND THAT A BETTER APPROACH WOULD BE TO DEFINE LONG TERM TOURISM OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES. MAJORITY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS THOUGHT THAT OECD WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO UNDERTAKE SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY, BUT THAT EACH COUNTRY COULD UNDERTAKE ITS OWN STUDY.

7. DISPOSITIONS OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OECD PARIS 04462

ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE CONCERNING
INTERNATIONAL TOURISM - (HELSINKI, AUGUST 1975)

SECTIONS CONCERNING TOURISM (TOU(76)4) WERE CIRCULATED TO THE COMMITTEE AS REQUESTED BY DANISH DEL. DANISH DEL REPORTED THAT EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL APPROACH OECD COUNTRIES TO NEGOTIATE TOURISM AGREEMENT. FINLAND HAS SIGNED SUCH AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND, THE USSR, RUMANIA AND BULGARIA. FRANCE SIGNED A MORE GENERAL AGREEMENT (WITH CLAUSES ON AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC, INSURANCE, CHARTER FLIGHTS) WITH THE USSR. YUGOSLAVIA HAS LONG SIGNED SUCH AGREEMENTS WITH SOME 16 COUNTRIES IN EAST AND WEST EUROPE. CANADIAN DEL OPINED THAT THIS QUESTION WAS NOT FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION, BUT SHOULD BE LEFT TO DIPLOMATS. CHAIRMAN FELT THAT NO FURTHER WORK SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN FOR THE MOMENT, EXCEPT POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. (NOTE: IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, CHAIR TOLD US DEL HE WOULD PREFER THAT OECD HAVE NO ROLE IN THIS MATTER, AND WOULD APPRECIATE OFFICIAL US VIEWS.)

ACTION REQUESTED: US VIEWS RE TC CONSIDERATION OF
TOURISM AGREEMENTS WITH BLOC COUNTRIES.

8. FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM OF WORK (1976-1977) -
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COMMITTEE EXAMINED SECRETARIAT NOTE (DAF/TOU/76.426) AND
DECIDED: A) PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT WAS ESSEN-
TIAL AND SHOULD RECEIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY. SECRETARIAT
SHOULD REINFORCE SECTION ON ANALYSIS OF GOVERNMENT
POLICY AND ACTION. B) STATISTICAL WORKING PARTY SHOULD
DEVELOP IN DETAIL A LONG-TERM PROGRAM. C) WORKING
PARTY ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS SHOULD COMPLETE
WORK IN HAND AND REPORT TO JUNE PLENARY WHEN TC WILL
DECIDE IF FURTHER WORK SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. D) DELE-
GATIONS SHOULD SEND NATIONAL REPORTS ON COSTS AND
BENEFITS OF TOURISM. E) RE PROTECTION OF THE TOURIST AS
A CONSUMER, A JOINT STUDY COULD BE UNDERTAKEN
BY TOURISM AND CONSUMER POLICY COMMITTEES; THE
SECRETARIAT WILL APPROACH CCP ON THIS QUESTION.
F) EXISTING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION SHOULD BE INTEN-
SIFIED PARTICULARLY ON ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM
IN NATIONAL ECONOMY. A CHAPTER COULD BE INCLUDED IN
FUTURE ANNUAL REPORTS. ON THIS POINT, AUSTRIA, CANADA,
IRELAND, GERMANY, GREECE, NORWAY AND SPAIN
SUPPORTED US VIEWS (REFTEL) THAT WITH LIMITED RESOURCES,
HIGHEST PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THIS ASPECT OF
TOURISM. GILMER (SECRETARIAT),HOWEVER, EXPLAINED
THAT SUCH A COMPLEX STUDY COULD NOT BE ENVISAGED FOR
THE PRESENT TIME WITH THE LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES
AND EXPERTISE OF TOURISM SECRETARIAT. HE ADDED THAT
DIVERSITY OF COUNTRY SITUATIONS COULD RENDER SUCH WORK
AN IRRELEVANT ACADEMIC EXERCISE. ALTERNATIVELY, GILMER
SUGGESTED THAT SUCH WORK BE DONE ON A REGIONAL BASIS.
JAPANESE DEL AGREED WITH SECRETARIAT AND ADDED THAT
NEW STUDIES SHOULD HAVE GREATER LINKS WITH POLICY
ISSUES, E.G. COST/BNEFIT ANALYSIS, TOURIST
PROTECTION, STAGGERING OF HOLIDAYS.

9. RESPONDING TO SECRETARIAT SUGGESTION FOR A GREATER
INPUT BY MEMBER COUNTRIES ON TOPICS FOR COMMITTEE
DISCUSSION, CHAIR ASKED WHETHER FINLAND COULD PREPARE
QUESTIONNAIRE TO ELICIT MEASURES TAKEN IN
MEMBER COUNTRIES RE "SOCIAL TOURISM". CHAIR ALSO IN-
QUIRED WHETHER CANADA AND US COULD PREPARE SHORT PAPERS
(OR A JOINT SUBMISSION) RE METHODS TO EVALUATE EMPLOY-
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MENT AND MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS IN THE TOURISM SECTOR
(THE METHODOLOGY WOULD BE ILLUSTRATED BY THE DATA
COLLECTED IN BOTH COUNTRIES.)

ACTION REQUESTED: CANADIAN DELEGATE PETER J. FRASER
WILL CONTACT MS. SHIPKA OF USTS REGARDING JOINT SUB-
MISSION; TIMING FOR WHICH IS VERY FLEXIBLE. PLEASE
ADVISE MISSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER USTS WOULD
AGREE TO COUNTRY SPECIFIC OR JOINT US-CANADIAN PAPER.
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